

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 58

October 2011

No. 8



Calendar

Fri., Sept. 23	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place	Sat., Oct. 15	Attic in the Street sale, Kenilworth Ave. south side (see p 3); Porches and Patios event, 6–9 pm (see p 6)
Sun., Sept. 25	Citizens Assoc. Newcomers' Welcome, Town Hall, 3 pm (all residents invited); Preview Gala, 4–6 pm, Art at Penn Place (p 3)	Sun., Oct. 16	Art at Penn Place reception, Rebecca Shephard, 3 to 5 pm (p 3); Rain garden tour, 3 to 5 (p 7)
Thurs., Sept. 29	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Oct. 20	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8
Sat., Oct. 1	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Wind energy info and signup, GP-CAN, Penn Place, 9 am–noon (see p 3)	Sat., Oct. 22	Large item pickup (date change)
Mon., Oct. 3	Last day to register for Porches and Patios (see p 6); Rebecca Shephard oils at Penn Place	Sun., Oct. 23	Memorial for Paul Edlund, Town Hall, 3 to 5 pm (see obituary, p 5)
Wed., Oct. 5	Women's Club speaker, Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 7)	Wed., Oct. 26	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Oct. 10	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Sat., Oct. 29	Spooky Woods, Porcupine Woods, 7 pm (see p 4)
Tues., Oct. 11	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 3 pm	Sun., Oct. 30	Memorial for Susan Alexander, Town Hall, 12 noon (see obituary, p 5); annual pumpkin carving contest, 1 to 3 pm, Penn Place basketball court (see p 4); Annual Tree walk with town arborist Phil Normandy, 2 pm (see Mayor's Letter, p 8)
Fri., Oct. 14	Film society, <i>Motorcycle Diaries</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7:15, film 8 pm (see p 7)		

Low and High Hanging Fruit

It was a very young crowd at September's Town Council meeting. Much pious bowing of heads over Blackberries.

"We came through the storms quite well," announced the Mayor. The town's been surveying the damage with our budget in mind; but thanks to the maintenance staff (which came in on a Sunday to clean up), things look okay.

Things also look good at the new Community Center as it moves through the stages of its renovation. Gerilee Bennett updated the Council on progress. "We're pretty much on schedule. A few permits are a little late. And we're still seeking donations for some final elements." Apparently a rain garden will be installed on the grounds of the Center as a training project for a landscaping firm. And the Mayor said there's a chance (sounded rather remote, though) that we may be able to underground all utilities for the Center.

Chris moved on to the implosion of the United States Post Office, and the effects of this on Garrett Park. He has attended some briefings with local politicians on the subject, and plans to attend more. His sense is that our post office will not be closed. "It's more likely that there will be cutbacks in personnel and operating hours." Whatever happens, he's keen to keep Saturday operations going, since so many townspeople need to use this day to get their mail.

The Archives Committee is also moving right along. It's preparing a report on its activities. "They've accomplished a lot," said Chris, especially in terms of the amount of material they've been able to load onto the computer. The Council appointed Rebecca Rawls to the Committee.

Beth Irons urged us to sign up for Green Power, via the Garrett Park Conservation Action

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Network. On October 16, from 3 to 5, there will be a rain garden tour through town so you can see some of what your neighbors have been doing along these lines.

The Parks Committee has turned its attention to Cambria Park; it's applying for a grant in order to spruce it up. It's also discussing the possibility of getting more park benches for the town.

Hans said that the town has had no success getting the SHA to fix the Keswick crosswalk. A sight-impaired person in town will write a letter to them.

Ted Pratt noted that we've sent out for bid some sidewalk, gutter, and driveway work. We're also advertising in the *Gazette*. The town will be in touch with affected residents about any different parking they might have to do, etc. We don't anticipate any serious problems or disruptions. The other major capital projects we hope to send out to bid soon are the two major storm drain jobs on Shelley Court and North Kenilworth.

A long discussion about land use (words like overlay, variances, and ordinances dominated) now ensued. Beth Irons noted that there's a "range of issues" and some "complexity" in the Land Use Task Force's recent report. She asked how the Council wants to respond to the report, and how it wants to approach the remaining work to be done on land use issues—in particular, the disparities between some town and county rules. How can we unpack some of the complexity of these issues for citizens—and indeed for members of the Council?

A meeting with the Setback Advisory Committee was suggested, and the idea seemed to go over well. Beth will check with the Committee on their availability.

Things got a little argumentative about special Garrett Park rules for how much people who have small lots can build. These rules, again, are different from the county's rules. What should we do about this?

Above all there was a sense in this discussion that we should decide which issues are most pressing and get to work on them. What, in the

words of a member of the audience, is low-hanging fruit here? High?

As we reviewed Garrett Park's land use issues, one townspeople in attendance said something kind of pretty. "We've always been oddball for our own little reasons."

Margaret Soltan

Green Again

The banner bucket is filling up slowly—we're good until March 2012. The month's green is courtesy of Charles Witten and his family. They are new residents in town and read of our dry spell last June. We thank them. If you would care to sponsor a green banner after March 2012, please make out a check for \$45 to the Citizens Association and mail it to me at Box 98. Or you can do what Charles nicely did—bring it by my house (11212 Kenilworth).

Part of your Citizens Association dues funds this publication, as well as the 4th of July festivities, the Newcomers' Welcome, which is coming up on September 25, and the Town Dinner. Send in your dues to Box 456.

Mary Moyer

Fun with GP History

The Archives Committee is seeking volunteers to help with Garrett Park's rapidly expanding and modernizing archives. Old-timers, and even some newer citizens, are needed to help identify their neighbors in old photos. Residents of all ages are needed to help transcribe tapes of oral histories of the legions of prominent, colorful, and raconteurial Parkers who have populated our town of yore (and now!). (Believe us, that really can be fun.) Other friends and neighbors can help sort and organize the files of the events, causes, issues, people, idiosyncrasies, organizations, and other multifarious realities that have made the Park the wonderful place it is today. Hours are flexible. Pay is guaranteed to equal that of the Mayor or Town Councilmember. Interested? Contact Marian Green or Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Charlie Snyder

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Town Administrator Notes

Large item pickup. The fall large item collection will take place on Saturday, October 22. This is a change from the original date, so please mark your calendars accordingly.

Major construction projects coming up. The town will be rebuilding the sidewalk along Oxford Street and Kenilworth Avenue from the town line at the elementary school to Strathmore Avenue, and the sidewalks on both sides of Kenilworth north of Strathmore, including part of the Waverly Avenue sidewalk. The town will also be replacing the curb and gutter along the westerly side of Kenilworth Avenue from 11212 through 11314, and on Argyle Avenue from 4705 around to the storm drain inlet on Rokeby Avenue in front of 4701 Argyle Avenue. Construction is expected to start in late October and be finished by early December. Residents should expect some parking and traffic restrictions in the construction area. Please contact the Town Office for more information.

Driveway & parking pad permits. Please remember, if you are planning to alter your driveway or install a parking pad in front of your house, you are going to impact town property, and you must file for a permit with the Town Office. Call 301-933-7488 if you have questions.

Be prepared. September is National Preparedness Month. It's important to remember that a certain degree of self-reliance is usually necessary after a major catastrophe. It's recommended that each household should have at least 3 days worth of water, food, and other essentials on hand at all times. For safety, avoid candles and oil lamps, and get battery-powered emergency lights instead. For more information on how best to prepare for the worst, visit www.makeaplan.org or call 866-788-PLAN. The Town Office has information on programs such as Ready Plan and File of Life.

Leaf raking & yard work assistance. Any young people in town who would like to offer their services to help residents with fall yard work may contact Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office (301-933-7488) to add their names to the list we keep.

Ted Pratt
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Attic in the Street!

The Garrett Park Women's Club reminds you that the annual Attic in the Street event will be held on Saturday, October 15, from 10 am to 2 pm. Setup time is 8:30 to 9:30 am, and all unsold materials must be cleared by 3 pm.

The cost is \$20 for one space or \$35 for two spaces. Checks should be made out to the Garrett Park Women's Club and sent to PO Box 494, along with the following information: name, address, telephone, e-mail (all correspondence will be by e-mail to participants before the sale date), and number of spaces requested. If you wish to volunteer to help with the event or if you have questions, please contact Celia Peacock.

Penn Place Gala Opening

Come kick off Series 7 at the Penn Place Gallery with champagne, Black Market Bistro appetizers, and time with the artists who will be showing here in the coming year. We have more Garrett Park artists than ever before—maybe your next-door neighbors! You may be surprised at their work. So join us on the Penn Place balcony from 4 to 6 on Sunday, September 25! After October 3, see the first solo show, GP oil painter Rebecca Shephard, which will be up for a month; meet the artist at a reception on October 15.

Thinking about Wind Energy?

Have you seen the little blue and green signs sprinkled around town saying "I'm a clean energy home"? Those Garrett Parkers have changed to wind power. You can, too! On Saturday, October 1, 9 am to noon, bring your electric bill to the PO, and members of GP-CAN—Garrett Park Conservation Action Network—will lay out the different wind energy alternatives for our area, the current rates, and help you to compare those programs to your Pepco rates. If you decide to sign up, a GP-CAN member can help you do it on the spot or show you how to do it on your own computer. It just takes a few minutes once you're familiar with the Web sites. Questions? Please contact Joanne Schmader or Karen Anderson.

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Citizens Association News

The CA would like to thank everyone for their help in making a huge success of the 4th of July activities, including the Fun Run and Parade. As always, the time and effort parade participants put into their costumes and bike, scooter, and wagon designs was evident. In keeping with the “Something Sweet” theme, this year we inaugurated the annual Garrett Park Pie Throwdown. People of all ages baked their best pies, and the competition was tough! Not only did we enjoy tasting the baking skills of our neighbors, but the Betsy White Fund benefited from the proceeds of pie sales.

Thanks go to organizers Lori Conlan, Lynn Frevert, and Kathryn Mitchell, together with the contestants, all of whom submitted superb fruit pies. Judges awarded prizes as follows:

- First Prize: John Rienstra Apple pie
- Second Prize: Linda Paine Apple pie
- Third Prize: Laura Rehbehn Blueberry pie

In addition, the Pooch Parade, held on Saturday, July 2, saw over 30 entries and several additional canine participants. Thanks to organizers Tracy Liden and Jean Horan, and to many others who pitched in to make a fun event. Pooch Awards were as follows:

Category	First place	Second place
Best dressed	Coco Harris	Ladybug
Dog with wiggliest butt	Lucy	Nani
Best smile	Shelby	Krrish
Most obedient	Parsley	Coco Sears
Least obedient	Sebastian	Clifford
Most mysterious heritage	Parsley	Stella
Dog/owner look-alike	Licorish	Dylan
Best senior dog	Bear	Alex
Best pair/family	Tuxx, Marty	Bella, Lulu, Ovie
Best vocal performance	Panda	Coco Harris (shared with Todd Harris)
Softest fur	Will	Baxter
Best trick	Alex	Rudy

Next CA meeting. There will be no CA meeting in September. The next CA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26.

Newcomers’ Reception. The annual Newcomers’ Reception is planned for Sunday, September 25, from 3 to 5 pm in the Town Hall. We extend a warm invitation to families who have moved into town over the past year. Come meet your new neighbors and find out what’s going on in town. “Old-timers” are encouraged to attend and share stories and information about Garrett Park. Please reach out to your new neighbors and invite them to join us. We look forward to meeting all the new GP residents! Light refreshments will be provided.

Spooky Woods. It’s that time again! Each year Spooky Woods gets bigger and spookier. This

year the GPCA’s annual Spooky Woods will kick off in Porcupine Woods at 7 pm on Saturday, October 29. Kids of all ages are invited to join us to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Volunteer ghouls are needed that day to set up and during the event to act in “haunted stations.” Please contact Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com before the event if you would like to volunteer or if you have an idea for a “spooky station.”

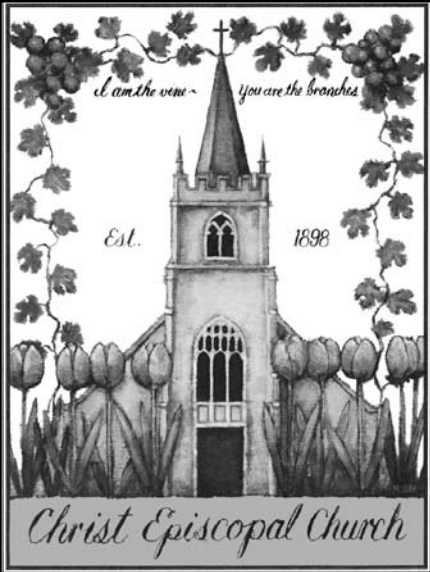
Pumpkin carving. Please join us on Sunday, October 30, from 1 to 3 pm on the basketball court for the annual pumpkin carving contest. Snacks and refreshments will be provided for this event. We request that you please bring your own pumpkin and carving utensils (knives, stencils, etc.).

Future meetings. We want to hear your suggestions. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com or send a note to POB 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2011 annual dues are being collected. The dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park Listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).



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Susan Alexander

Garrett Park lost its guardian angel early Thursday morning, September 8, when Susan Alexander quietly passed away. Fittingly, she spent her final week with us in hospice care after living with us for her first year in Garrett Park, around 1973. In the intervening years she provided loving and expert care and companionship to a host of our residents, including Elsa Guernsey, Watson Fenimore, Mary Rowe, my mother Lillian, and, for some 10 years, her last and most beloved, Donal McLaughlin.

A longtime advocate for environmental causes, Susan recently achieved deserved recognition for her fierce, uncompromising—and successful—campaign to save the stand of willow oaks along Oxford in front of the Sonner/Yeandle house where she lived. Susan saw the magic in nature and animals, loved books, possessed a keen intellect, and had a passion for politics.

With Susan's passing, our town and the lives of those she touched will never be the same.

A memorial service will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, October 30, at 12 noon.

Mike Henley

Paul Edlund

Longtime Garrett Park resident Paul Erik Edlund passed away peacefully on August 11 at the age of 89. Paul and his wife Mary Jane moved to Garrett Park in 1958, purchasing their first home on Kenilworth Avenue. Paul began work at the Library of Congress, a career that he enjoyed for 27 years. Each day he would commute from the GP train station and on his return stop at the Post Office for mail and a visit with neighbors. Paul and Mary Jane formed lifelong friendships centered around town activities and raising their four children. Paul became an active member in the community of Garrett Park, serving first on the Town Council from 1966 to 1968 and from 1986 to 1990, then as Mayor from 1990 to 1996.

His love for history and for writing served him well in the community. He was very active in both the 75th and 100th anniversary of the town. For the Demi-Sesquicentennial celebration he contributed both memorable lyrics and his voice to the jubilee. He loved the historical nature of the town, and in 1988, he compiled a historical tribute entitled, *Garrett Park, Maryland: A Scrapbook, 1898–1988*. He also wrote an article about the town that appeared in *Municipal Maryland* magazine.

In 2004, Paul published his second book, *Youth, the First Victim of War*, which chronicled his experiences on a B24 air crew during WWII. When it was published, the town helped him celebrate with a book signing at the Town Hall.

Paul's other interests included landscaping, and he was excited to be part of the occasional GP house and garden tour. Paul led a full life and

was well known and respected around town not only for his many volunteer contributions, but also for his positive outlook and sense of humor.

Paul and Mary Jane owned two homes in Garrett Park, both on Kenilworth Avenue. When they were ready to downsize from their first house, they knew they did not want to leave Garrett Park, so they built a smaller home down the street. Eventually, however, when Paul and Mary Jane's health declined, they moved to Cape Cod and then on to Belmont, Massachusetts, where they spent their final years.

A celebration of Paul's life is to be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, October 23, from 3 to 5 pm. The Edlund children, Karen, Christa, Paul, and Leslie, ask you to bring your photos and remembrances of Paul and Mary Jane to share. Memorial gifts may be made to the Veterans History Project, a project of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/vets).

Lena Bessette Vargas

Lena Bessette Vargas passed away on August 17, following complications from open heart surgery. Her funeral, held at Holy Cross Church on August 22, was followed by a luncheon at the Town Hall.

Lena earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing education at the University of Vermont, and was certified as a nursing administrator by the American Nurses Association. While at Vermont she met and married Jose, a faculty member, in 1949. They moved to Washington, DC, in 1951, and she began working on the staff of Providence Hospital while raising their family of five children.

She had a passion for her profession and worked well into her eighties. She was a long-time member of the American Association of University Women. In 1995, she was an AAUW delegate to the US-China Conference on Women's Issues, held in Beijing.

Robert Weisberg

Robert Weisberg died suddenly on September 1. Born in 1937 in Bayonne, NJ, he had a long and distinguished career as a geneticist and virologist. After he retired from the National Institutes of Health after nearly 40 years, he worked as a scientist emeritus at the National Cancer Institute's molecular biology laboratory. In his spare time he was an avid mushroom hunter and a collector of all things pig-related. He and his wife Judy were often spotted doing the grand walking tour of Garrett Park.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judy, daughter Eve of Silver Spring, son Josh of Houston, Texas, and three grandchildren. The family asked that donations be made in his name to his favorite local NPR station, WAMU (202-885-1252).

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ We received word of another graduate over the summer. Alden Green graduated from Richard Montgomery High School in the International Baccalaureate program. He is currently at Harvard University, the only RM graduate to be accepted. He was also named in the *Gazette* as an all-county soccer player. Congratulations, Alden.
- ♪ The Roberts (Kitty, Glenn, Abby, and Maggie) left Garrett Park after 21 years. They haven't gone far away, however. Temporarily they are at the Jefferson Apartments on Tuckerman until their home is completed at Symphony Park. Their e-mail and PO box stay the same.
- ♪ Capt. Lisa Rider (Weymouth St.) was named 2011 Physician Researcher of the year by the physicians' professional advisory committee of the Public Health Service. The award was presented in recognition of her basic and clinical research into juvenile dermatomyositis. She is currently the deputy chief of the NIH environmental autoimmunity group.
- ♪ Felicity Payne Callahan informs us that Jack Honey passed away on May 17. He and his family lived next to the Town Hall for many years. Jack was Professor Emeritus of Public Policy at Syracuse University when he died. Previously he was an education advisor to the Carter administration, and worked with the Ford Foundation, NASA, and other agencies on issues related to higher education and government. Jack is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary, and their three children, Martha, Stephen, and Margaret, as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
- ♪ Our condolences to Barbara Shidler on the death of her son, Brad, on June 28, after a long illness. He had been living in Rhode Island. Brad loved his dogs and requested that any contributions in his memory be mailed to Forever Paws, 300 Lynwood Street, Fall River, MA 02721.
- ♪ The Post Office staff thanks you for your support during the recent battle for Saturday

hours. They request that you continue with that support by buying postage stamps and packing supplies when you send packages.

- ♪ We survived the earthquake, Hurricane Irene, the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, tornadoes, and a power outage. (What next? A freak snowstorm?) Trees came down on the houses of the Osmonds, Beth Irons, and Sally Keen, with major damage to the first two. (Reporter Mary Moyer said it did her heart good to know that Garrett Park Estates was also without electricity—which doesn't always happen when Garrett Park goes out! Misery loves company, we guess.)
- ♪ Save the date: Sunday, October 30, is the day of the Arboretum Committee's Annual Tree walk with town arborist Phil Normandy. The walk is planned for 2 pm; other details will be provided in the next *Bugle*.

Porches and Patios

Join your neighbors for a fun new event on Saturday, October 15: the first Annual Porches and Patios evening, featuring "heavy" hors d'oeuvres and desserts only. (Think how often you look at a menu and say, "I could happily make a meal of just the appetizers.")

The fun begins at 6 pm. You will be assigned to two different homes for enjoying appetizers, one from 6 to 7, another from 7 to 8. Then finish off the evening at a third home for dessert.

Sign up to provide food or to host your neighbors on your porch or patio. No need for formality for this event—no tables to set. This variant of the annual Progressive Dinner is meant to be low key, casual, and just plain fun.

Registration forms are available online at the Garrett Park Web site (www.garrettpark-md.gov/e/1684) and in the Post Office lobby.

The event is adults only, so line up the baby sitter now. Don't miss out. Questions? Contact Jean Horan.

David Altar
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GPES

The school year began with a rise in enrollment. We're now up to 565 students, which has required more sections of some grades. (We have four kindergartens, five first and second grades, four third grades, and the usual three sections of fourth and fifth grades.) We were greeted with six more portable classrooms on the holding school grounds, which really weren't put there for us, but for the school that will follow us. With luck they will be put to good use so that the general music program and the fourth and fifth grade instrumental program don't have to share space, and some teachers who floated last year have a space to call home. As well as being larger, we are now more diverse than before. There are at least 33 different languages spoken by the students and their families.

The school is in need of part-time workers. A substitute lunch/recess aide is being sought. Officially approved substitutes allow the staff to be freed from duties. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and will be paid at the rate of \$13.88 an hour. If interested, contact Mrs. Georgatsos, administrative secretary, at 301-270-6920. Also needed is a technology-savvy parent to help post a calendar of school events onto the school Web site on a monthly basis, with limited updates happening during the month. Call the office if interested.

Some time after we move into our new building, there are tentative plans for an open house for Garrett Park families, town residents, and those who live in the Estates. Bring your walking shoes; it's a big building. And since we're so far from home, the Halloween events will be at the holding school only, and will be held on Friday, October 28, since the school is closed for students on October 31.

Mary Moyer

College Student in the Family?

The Garrett Park Women's Club is sponsoring a presentation by John Bader on Wednesday, October 5, at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Dr. Bader, a Kensington neighbor, will read excerpts from his book, *Dean's List: Eleven Habits of Highly Successful College Students*. A former dean at Johns Hopkins, Bader offers ways to make the most of the college opportunity by helping students be more strategic, more mature, and more open-minded. Current and future college students and their families should find this event of interest.

Copies of the book will be on sale, and a portion of the proceeds will donated to support the Garrett Park Betsy White Emergency Fund. Please contact Jean Horan with any questions.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov

GPFS Presents

On October 14, we present *Motorcycle Diaries*, a "road movie" taken to a higher plane. It's the story of the transformation of an idealistic young Argentinean medical student (Fuser to his friends) into the iconic revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara. Directed by Walter Salles, starring Gael Garcia Bernal, and based on Guevara's contemporary journals, the film recreates the four-month, 8,000-km motorcycle trip through South America of the 23-year-old Fuser and his friend Alberto Granado (aka Mial). Along the way they see both breathtaking landscapes and breathtaking poverty and oppression. The trip changes their lives.

Whatever your opinion of Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution, this film will add to your understanding of what motivated them. In addition, it is in every sense a "movie"—engaging, entertaining, and visually and aurally stunning.

Motorcycle Diaries (2004; rated R for language; in Spanish with subtitles) will be shown at 8 pm in the Town Hall. Admission for non-GPFS members is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Dinner featuring suitably South American cuisine will be served at 7:15 (cost about \$10 per person). Wine and beer are on offer for \$5 and \$3 respectively. Soft drinks, bottled water, popcorn, and nuts are available for \$1 or one GPFS member coupon. Hope to see you there on October 14.

Rain Garden Tour October 16


It's raining, it's pouring, and all that water you see streaming off our roofs, roads, and driveways is eroding local streams and carrying pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. What to do? Join your fellow Garrett Parkers for a Sunday afternoon tour (rain or shine!) of local rain garden installations, several of which have been funded by Montgomery County's RainScapes program. Garrett Park Conservation Action Network (GP=CAN) is sponsoring the event, which will run from 3 to 5 pm on Sunday, October 16. Local homeowners will meet you to talk about their gardens, and officials from the county will also provide information on rebates for rain gardens and other ways of capturing stormwater onsite. Watch for flyers at the Post Office, or call Karen Anderson for more information.

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Letter from the Mayor

It was an eventful summer in Garrett Park; let me recap some highlights. Refurbishing and upgrading the Community Center (spearheaded and financed by the Nursery School) is proceeding apace; it will likely be finished before the rebuilt elementary school (slated to reopen in January 2012). With the cooperation of the Montgomery County RainScapes Program, we have the prospect of a demonstration rain garden at the Community Center. The town has also gained the cooperation of Pepco and Montgomery County Public Schools in possibly undergrounding utilities to the building; that considerable safety enhancement would ordinarily be financially prohibitive, so we are working to ensure that the remaining pieces fall into place soon. The Nursery School has done a terrific job; the building and grounds will be a great asset to Garrett Park.

Bids are out for replacement sidewalks on Kenilworth, and for new curbs, gutters, and driveway aprons at several locations in town. We expect that work can be completed before the snows of winter. The timetable for two major storm drain projects is a bit tighter, but plans are nearly complete.

At a recent meeting with United States Postal Service representatives, we learned little new information about operating hours at the Garrett Park Post Office, but were modestly reassured that retail counter hours on Saturday can be maintained if the office remains profitable. It's up to us as customers to help ensure that by using the GP PO as much as possible. Our meeting was also useful in strengthening our dialog with USPS, and demonstrating the depth of our commitment to keeping the Garrett Park PO open and operating at a profit. Our thanks to Congressman Chris Van Hollen's office for facilitating the meeting, to town residents Nancy Floreen and Donna Callejon, and to Town Councilmembers for contributing to this ongoing effort.

Town infrastructure, including trees, came through major events (earthquake, tropical storms) in good shape. We owe thanks, as always, to our dedicated town maintenance crew and office staff for their work during and after the storms. The town continues to reap the benefits of careful stewardship of our trees. In that vein, please plan to attend the Arboretum Committee's annual Tree Walk on Sunday, October 30, with Phil Normandy of Brookside Gardens. Look for details later, but this is always a worthwhile and informative event. Phil takes a special, personal interest in the well-being of the town's trees that goes far beyond his formal role as consulting arborist. Join us on the tree walk to learn about town trees and hear Phil's useful insights—always delivered with a fine combination of wit and knowledge.

The Archives Advisory Committee is the town's newest and most active committee. They

are off to a flying start in giving the Garrett Park Archives an enviable professional organization; their work will benefit us all by making the unique resources of the town archives better known and more accessible. Bravo to chair Charlie Snyder and his hard-working committee!

Close behind the Archives Committee in activity is the Parks and Open Spaces Committee (POSCO), chaired by Ida Sullivan. POSCO recently helped the town with much-needed replacement fencing at "Cambria Courts"—the new moniker for the town property east of the pool near Cambria/Raleigh. POSCO continues to examine other improvements that can be made at that location and elsewhere in town; they would be pleased to hear from residents with ideas or interest in pitching in.

The deaths of several residents and former residents over recent months sadden us, but remind us of the debt we owe to all who came before us in building and maintaining the inimitable character of our special community. Life goes on, and this summer continued the recent trend of new arrivals in town, thus rendering the 2010 census already obsolete! Help welcome our new families at the Newcomers' Reception at Town Hall on Sunday, September 25, from 3 to 5 pm.

Finally, no Mayor's Letter would be complete without acknowledging the significant role that volunteers play in making our town such a pleasant and distinctive place to live. I want to thank all residents who contribute so generously of their time and talents to make town events such a success: the Fourth of July parade, fun run and pool events; the delightful Pooch Parade; films from the Garrett Park Film Society; lively Art in Penn Place exhibits, to name just a few. The Pooch Parade this year was graced by stylish refreshments for canines and their human friends. The town's Fourth of July festivities were enhanced by the first annual pie-baking contest, with nearly a score of delicious entries. There's more to come, so please join in—as volunteer or attendee—and savor life in Garrett Park.

Chris Keller

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